IV. *Farther Remarks upon a Denarius of the* Veturian *Family, with an* Etruſcan *Inſcription on the Reverſe, formerly conſidered. In a Letter to* Mathew Maty, *M. D. Sec. R. S. from the Reverend* John Swinton, *B. D. F. R. S. Cuſtos Archivorum of the Univerſity of* Oxford, *Member of the Academy* degli Apatiſti *at* Florence, *and of the* Etruſcan *Academy of* Cortona *in* Tuſcany.

Received June 20, 1772.

SIR,

I.

Read Nov. 19, 1772. SOME years ſince (1), I offered my thoughts upon an inedited Samnite denarius, in my ſmall collection, with [See TAB. II. n. 1.] the Samnite-Etruſcan letters 𐌅𐌕𐌅𐌋·𐌉𐌌, as I then apprehended, upon the reverſe. But as the two laſt letters were ill preſerved, or rather in part defaced, I was not intirely ſatisfied with my lection of the

(1) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LVIII. p. 253—261.

inſcription

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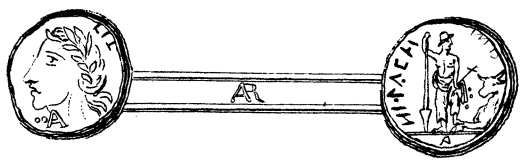
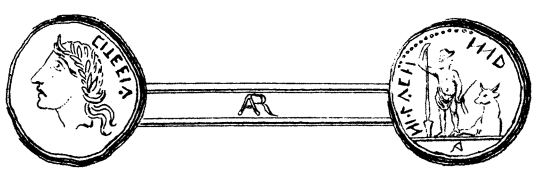
Tab. II. n. 1.



Tab. II. n. 2.



inſcription to which they appertained. I have, however, ſince met with the [See TAB. II. n. 2.] ſame coin, finely preſerved, in the very valuable cabinet of the Reverend and learned Dr. Milles (*), Dean of Exeter, Preſident of the Society of Antiquaries, and Fellow of the Royal Society, with three letters, in the room of the two ſuppoſititious ones, upon it, perfectly formed; by the aſſiſtance of which, I have been enabled to give the true reading of the inſcription, and to arrive, I would flatter myſelf, at a full and complete interpretation of it. In order, therefore, to rectify all former miſtakes, ariſing from the injury received by the three laſt elements from time, I ſhall now beg leave to tranſmit this ſhort paper to you, to be laid before the Royal Society; not doubting but it will meet with the ſame candid acceptance, the ſame favourable reception, with which my other papers have been honoured, through the whole courſe of my correſpondence with you and two of your predeceſſors, from that very learned and moſt illuſtrious body.

(*) Towards the cloſe of May, 1771, the Dean ſent me a draught of the Samnite coin conſidered in this paper, very accurately taken; ſoon after which, the original inſcription on the reverſe of the medal, by an unlucky accident, was totally defaced. However, by the aſſiſtance of the draught ſent me, and my ſimilar coin, on which the remains of the three injured letters were rendered more viſible, by the help of a pretty good glaſs, and an attentive compariſon of them with the correſpondent elements on the draught the Dean communicated to me, the inſcription exhibited by my medal, as well as the other given here, approaches the truth as near as poſſible.

II.

I am then fully convinced from the Samnite, or Samnite-Etruſcan, inſcription formerly viſible on the reverſe of the Dean's very valuable denarius, which I ſhall beg leave to conſider here, that the true legend exhibited by my coin is ᗡᗰᚺᛁᗡᐯᒍ·ᛁᚺ, NI. LVFII, or LVVII, MER, equivalent to NI. LVFIVS, or LVVIVS, MERRISS, MERRIX, or MEDDIX. I ſay equivalent to LVFIVS, or LVVIVS, becauſe the Etruſcan, or Samnite-Etruſcan, letter ᗡ is endued with the power of V (2), as well as that of F, even (3) on this ſpecies of Samnite coins; and the Samnite termination II ſeems ſometimes at leaſt to have anſwered to the Roman, or Latin, IVS, as has been formerly obſerved. Theſe points are clearly evinced by the authors here referred to, as well as others, that might, with equal facility, be produced. As for the elements ᗡᗰ, they very probably repreſented the ſyllable MER; nothing being more common than the ſuppreſſion of a vowel between two conſonants, in antient Etruſcan words, as I have elſewhere demonſtratively proved (4). To the inſtances there mentioned I might add many

(2) Anton. Franciſc. Gor. *Muſ. Etruſc.* Vol. II. p. 414, 415. *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LII. Par. I. p. 28—39.

(3) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* ubi ſup. & Vol. LI. Par. II. p. 853—865. Anton. Franciſc. Gor. ubi ſup. & alib. Sig. Olivier. in *Sag. di Diſſertaz. di Corton.* Tom. II. p. 49—73. & Tom. IV. p. 133—149. *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LII. Par. I. p. 34, 35. Lond. 1762.

(4) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LXI. p. 85, 86, 87.

others,

others, were it in any manner neceſſary. But as this is not the caſe, it will be ſufficient to refer to the paper (5) wherein the former inſtances are contained.

III.

That the Samnite letters 𐌌𐌌 ſtood (*) for the word MERRISS, or MERRIX, uſed at Herculaneum, and the neighbouring part of Campania, for MEDDIX, denoting the chief magiſtrate of the Oſcans and Samnites, as we learn from Ennius (6) and Feſtus (7), will not be denied, as I apprehend, by

(5) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* ubi ſup.

(*) The Samnites and Etruſcans by a ſingle ſyllable not ſeldom expreſſed a whole word on their coins. Thus for 𐌀𐌍𐌅𐌋, LVNA, we find 𐌍𐌅𐌋, LVN, or 𐌅𐌋, LV, on the pieces ſtruck in the city of LVNA; 𐌕𐌕, TV, for TVTERE, on thoſe of TVDER, or TODI; 𐌀𐌋𐌕, TLA, for TELAMON, on the medals attributed to the city going under that name, at preſent called TELAMONE; 𐌉𐌀𐌉, FAI, on thoſe of FÆSVLÆ, now denominated FIESOLE, to omit many other ſimilar inſtances that occur. And as the Romans on their conſular coins exhibited COS for CONSVL, DICT for DICTATOR, &c. the Samnites and Oſcans on their medals probably uſed 𐌌𐌌, MR, or MER, for MERRISS, or MEDDIX, the ſupreme magiſtrate, or rather one of the two ſupreme magiſtrates, of the city, or country, where the pieces I am conſidering were ſtruck. Hence it ſeems to appear, that the Romans borrowed the ſhort manner of writing here mentioned either of the Samnites, the Oſcans, or the proper Etruſcans. *Sag. Diſſertaz. di Corton.* Tom. II. p. 53. 41. *Philoſ. Tranſact.* Vol. LIV. p. 100. 103. *Una Lettera Al Sig. Abat. Barthelemy di* Annibale degli Abati Oliveri, &c. p. 43. In Peſaro, 1757.

(6) Ennii fragm. in *Annal.* viii. Vid. etiam not. Franciſc. Heſſelii in loc. p. 147, 148. Amſtelodami, 1707.

(7) Feſt. in voc. *Meddix.*

any one who has read what has been advanced on this head by Sig. Avvocato (8) Paſſeri. This magiſtrate is called (*) Meddixtuticus by (9) Livy. NI. LVFIUS, or LVVIVS, therefore, ſeems not to have been one of the Italian generals in the Social War, as (10) I formerly ſuppoſed, but one of the chief magiſtrates either of the Oſcans or the Samnites, coeval with that war; there having (11) been two ſuch magiſtrates, anſwering to the two Roman Conſuls, and the two Carthaginian Suffetes, in both thoſe nations. That D inverted, ᗡ, amongſt the antient Etruſcans, and the Samnites, had the power of R, whence it came to paſs that theſe two elements were looked upon as nearly related to each other, and R not infrequently uſed for D, we learn from the (12) famous Matthæus Ægyptius and Father (13) Gori. We are not therefore to be

(8) Joan. Baptiſt. Paſſer. Piſaurenſ. *Junonal. Sacr. Menſ. Herculanenſ.* in *Symbol. Litterar.* &c. Vol. I. p. 209, 210. Florentiæ, 1748.

(*) The Meddixtuticus, or Mediaſtuticus, of Livy ſeems to be formed of the two Samnite-Etruſcan words ƧƧIᗡᗡƎM, or ƧꓘꓶᗡᗡƎM, ƧKꓶTꓕVT, MERRISS, MERRICKS, or MEDDIX, TVFTICKS, or TVTICKS, not TVCTICKS, as Sig. Paſſeri has written and pronounced it; both which words ſeem to denote the ſupreme magiſtrate, or rather one of the two ſupreme magiſtrates, amongſt the Oſcans and the Samnites. Paſſer. ubi ſup. p. 210—213.

(9) Liv. Lib. xxvi. c. 6.

(10) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LVIII. p. 258.

(11) Jo. Bapt. Paſſer. Piſaurenſ. ubi ſup.

(12) Matthæus Ægypt. in *Explicat. S. C. Romanor. de Bacchanal.* p. 148, 149. Neapoli, 1729.

(13) Anton. Franciſc. Gor. *Muſ. Etruſc.* Vol. II. p. 412, 413. Florentiæ, 1737.

ſurprized

ſurprized that MERRISS, MERRIX, and MEDDIX, ſhould be conſidered as the ſame word, or at leaſt as words of the ſame ſignification, by the celebrated Sig. (14) Giovanni Battiſta Paſſeri; who has ſet the point I am now upon, as well as every thing he has advanced relative to it, in the ſtrongeſt and cleareſt light.

IV.

That the Luvian, or Luſian, family was ſettled in that part of Campania poſſeſſed by the Oſcans and Samnites, or at leaſt almoſt contiguous to it, may be deemed highly probable, from the following inſcription (15), found near Venafro, the antient Venatrum, at no very great diſtance from Herculaneum, where the word MERRISS, or MERRIX, for MEDDIX, was antiently uſed, and now to be ſeen near that city (16).

LVVIA M. F. POSTVMA
SIGNVM. ET BASIM. D.
IVNONI. REG. SACRVM.

Whence, in conjunction with what has been already obſerved, we may conclude, that the coins I have been offering my thoughts upon may be preſumed to have made their firſt appearance amongſt either the Samnites or the Oſcans, probably the former, ſettled in a part of Campania, at no very great diſtance from Herculaneum; and that Ni. Lu-

(14) J. Bapt. Paſſer. Piſaurenſ. ubi ſup.

(15) Ludovic. Anton. Murator. *Theſaur. veter. inſcript.* &c. Tom. I. P. xvi. n. 4. Mediolani, 1739.

(16) Idem ibid.

vius, or Lufius, was the Merriſs, Merrix, or Meddix, or at leaſt one of the two magiſtrates going under that denomination, of the city, if not the whole country, where it was ſtruck.

V.

With regard to the year, as well as the place, wherein the medals in view firſt appeared, neither the one nor the other can, with preciſion, be aſcertained; though the Latin A on one ſide of my denarius and the Etruſcan 𐌀 on the reverſe, in the exergue, ſeem to point at the initial letter of the name of the place where they were ſtruck. And that this operation happened about the time of the Social War, we may pronounce highly probable, from the agreement of theſe denarii in moſt particulars with other Samnite coins, undoubtedly ſtruck not long after (*) the commencement of that war.

VI.

It would be wholly unneceſſary, and altogether immaterial, to mention the different explications of the ſymbol on the reverſes of theſe medals, offered by ſeveral learned men, here; as ſcarce any of them ſeems to be perfectly agreeable to truth, or to be ſuch as may be abſolutely depended upon. I ſhall therefore content myſelf with obſerving, that ſome light is thrown upon this intricate ſubject

(*) This ſeems likewiſe, from what has been already obſerved in a former paper, pretty clearly to appear. *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LVIII. p. 256, 257.

by

by a curious paſſage in (17) Strabo; that the two writers who have handled this matter in the moſt copious, and learned, manner are Sig. (18) Bianconi and (19) M. Pellerin; that the medals I have been conſidering have notified to us the civil office, or dignity, of Ni. Luvius, or Lufius, as ſome other ſimilar Samnite denarii have done the military poſt of (20) Papius Mutilus; and that the name of the Lufian family has never yet appeared, as I apprehend, on any other ancient coins. I ſhall only beg leave to add, that I remain, with all poſſible conſideration and eſteem,

SIR,

Your moſt obliged,

and moſt obedient,

humble ſervant,

Chriſt-Church, Oxon.
June 18, 1772.

John Swinton.

(17) Strab. *Geogr.* Lib. v. p. 250. Lutetiæ Pariſiorum, 1620.
(18) Joan. Bapt. Biancon. *de Priſc. Hebræor. et Græcor. Lit. Libel.* p. 73. Bononiæ, 1748.
(19) *Supplem. aux Recueils des Medaill.* p. 11, 12. A Paris, 1765.
(20) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LI. Par. II. p. 857. Vol. LII. Par. I. p. 28—39. & Vol. LIX. p. 432—444. Lond. 1769.